

New York, 10 June 1851.

My Dear Gray -

I shant take shame to myself for having so long delayed to write to you, did I not know that my motives woud even hear your scrutiny - The truth is I feared that I shant only write you once more, & I delayed this, for both our sakes, until the last moment. It was my purpose to leave N.Y. & the U. S. early in the month of April, & I had made partial arrangements - as to packing &c. - with that view, but a painful occurrence changed my determination for the present, at any rate. Towards the end of March my daughter was prematurely confined with twin daughters - two entirely perfect, pretty little things, but as they came at about $6\frac{1}{2}$ months, they only lived 4 & 7 hours, respectively - But they appeared so robust, & cried so stoutly, that hopes were entertained of rearing at least one of them, whence the disappointment was felt the more keenly. At this particular time, when we were, of course, both of us subdued in spirits, my son urged upon me, so strongly, that the step which I was about to take woud plunge him into much misery, that I acceded to his request to take up my abode with him, for a time, at least, & I accordingly removed to his house (N. 15 West 21st Street - 8 doors from 5th Avenue) in the first week of April - Shortly after my arrival I was taken very unwell, & was attended by Beale, for 2 or 3 weeks - Indeed, I am not now comfortable, having some sort of trouble in one side of my head, but am very much better, & am seriously thinking of examining and closing down my Composita, the first approach to Botanical Daring for several months - My son has

The Forreys are all well, I hope - tho' it is some weeks since I heard of them - Mrs. F. continues to be in rather feeble health, I fear - And one dear friend from home (the, I may not deserve it) who I may never when so disposed have time

had two very nice Cabinets fitted to my room, of black walnut, which I now take great pleasure in thinking you will see & approve - life, & better health affords permitting, I may botanize a little more, hereafter, it may be. To return, however, to my dear daughter - Her getting up was remarkably good - better, indeed, than I had ventured to hope, as she had previously had a mishap (some 2 or 3 months after her marriage) & was by no means strong. As soon as she was well about, her sister Mrs. Delano, with her husband, came to spend the month before their departure, with us; having left their own house in Lafayette Place, during the time they are to stay in Europe. My daughter was very fickle, for much of this time, & on the day they sailed, John took her over to Long Isl? hoping that the sea air bathing may recruit her. It is as yet too soon to begin the latter, as the weather is still cold, but I hear that she is doing comfortably, & is much pleased with her quarters. Please say this much to Mrs. Delano, whom I have introduced, by letter, to the kind attentions of your good self & dear Mr. Gray - Her voice & manner are the very counterpart of her sister, but, personally, the features of Mrs. D. are most attractive - In other respects, the moral resemblance is strong. Thus much of my personal news. The house in 21st W. is dismantled for the season - except as to my room - & I expect to remain alone, & in command of the ship until late in the Autumn.

I received your short letter from Dublin, & blessed God for your miraculous escape! It seems incomprehensible how you could have fallen 18 ft. & have sustained such comparatively slight injury - Not, indeed that a sprained wrist & 2 fractured ribs are trifling matters, but - under the circumstances - the bare preservation of life was all but miraculous - and your being able to sit up

in a week (!) very little less so. Truly, my dear Gray, you have more energy & strength than falls to the lot of most men. I am sorry to learn from Mr. G. that your right hand continued weak so late as last March. However, I believe that sprain of the wrist takes a very long time to recover entirely.

The last time I saw Torrey - some 4 or 5 weeks since - he told me that a difficulty had arisen between himself & Com^r Wilkes, in which you would also share, & he even intimated that you might, possibly, fail to realize the pecuniary reward of your hard labour, should you & Wilkes not, ultimately agree. This, however, I will not believe, until I am obliged to do so, as it would worry me very much, indeed. I shall hope for the best. I have not heard a word from Boston - directly, or indirectly - but you are no doubt advised as to the garden & the doings of our friend Sprague. I shall not dare to talk Botany with you, hereafter - for altho' I have always, as in duty bound, referred very humbly to Mr. Mopps, yet, after all this work with Benthon & Hooker, he will be altogether too great a dan for me. I have missed you very greatly - more than I imagined - for altho' we did not meet very often, yet I knew of your doings from dear Mrs. Gray - to say nothing of your own curb, & for the most part, abusive, communications. I now hope to see you both again, & I already feel how much pleasure this meeting will give me. I am very grateful to my valued friend for her invitation to Cambridge - To help you with your 2^d I'd. would be a great pleasure to me, to say nothing of the happiness I experience in your family - but, it is too far ahead for me to venture upon any calculation of probabilities, for the present - By looking over my own Herb. I shall have some matters to submit to you - which I ought to have noted (but have not done so)

from time to time, in my own Copy of the Manual - In this Connection, let me remind you to bring out from the Herbaria exposed to your view, a specimen or two of *Equisetum pratense* Ehrh. (*E. umbrosum*, Mey. in Willd.

E. Thirkartii, Mey. Chl. Hanov. *E. angustifolium*, Retz. *E. trigue-*
trium, Bory. *E. Drummondii*, Hook.) The syn. I give from
these names, & not know it - Fisher prosp'r tho' rare be!

Also get *Scirpus* (*Eleocharis*) *Bæothryon* L. (*E. pauciflora*, Link &c)

see synon. in Kth. Cyp. p. 158. I suspect this will turn out
to be *Torreyi* *Scirpus rotellata*. - Also get, for me,

Dryopteris rigidæ - & D. spinulosa. & I hope you did not forget
to obtain a fragment (seed especially) of the real *Polyfala bicolor*

of Kth. as to which I put a mem. For you amongst the
Chapman plants, as I have a notion respecting this species, &
we may set it straight. And now, another thing, for I do

not mind giving you trouble in such matters, my dear Gray,
if a guinea, or thereabouts, will buy a good Copy of Schkr.

Carices with the Suppl., please buy it for me, as I find myself

so much the referee of our Country Cousins, in the matter of
Carex, that I suppose I ought to have this volume - If in

your visits to the old book-shops you find any odd vols. of

D.C. Prod. bear me in mind. I give you a discretion, but
I suppose for odd vols. 4^o or 5^o ftg. would be as much as

they would ask. I have got parts 2. (7^o complete) 8. 12 & 13.
(sect. 2.) Any others would be acceptable - Of course, I do not

want you to bust about for these, but bear them in your
recollection. I further want the vol. of Smith's English Flora

containing *Carex* (I think the 4^{th.}) I had borrowed it from
my brother, & it was burnt with my things in 1845 thus

rendering his set incomplete. The vols. were all published
separately, by Longmans, & the odd ones are doubtless

in the old book-shops - (still in Holborn?) This is all,

my dear Gray, the that will hold - except kindest love to your
dear good little wife, & many thanks for her undersood & very
welcome letter - also thanks, in advance, for any kind attentions you

I forgot to speak about Mr. Marks - whom, (after consultation with my Mother, who had equally forgotten him) I now recollect. When I knew him he was a boy only - clerk to a gentleman in the City, with whom I was intimate - but called universally Henry & I am even doubtful, whether I knew his patronymic, at the time in question.

After he became a man, & married, he sought out my brother, & made himself known to him in N.Y. & as Sam. thinks, bought some small China trifles at Pine St. - Sam. says he thinks he invited him to dinner, & further believes that I met him, but of this I have no recollection.

So far as I know, therefore, he is a reputable person, but, as you say, he has had no education, as he was rather an office-boy than a Clerk, when I knew him, & what he knows he must have picked up - as I suppose he never had no school learning - which is the case with many other sharp fellows in the world -

Adieu!

Paid - Mr. Canada Steamer -



Prof. J. S. Green
The Royal Club, Brown Thistle &
Woolf Liverpool.

Wm. Davis
New York
June 11 '57